



State of Louisiana

Department of Environmental Quality



Kathleen Babineaux Blanco
Governor

Mike D. McDaniel, Ph.D.
Secretary

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Contact: Rodney Mallett
Peter Ricca
Telephone: 225.219.3964
225.219.3938

Environmental News

DEQ Investigations Lead to Charges of Hazardous Waste Disposal

Robert Beam turned himself in to Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality criminal investigators on Wednesday, March 31. He was booked into the Calcasieu Parish Prison on a charge of illegal disposal of hazardous waste.

A DEQ investigation determined that Beam formerly operated Chrome Technology on East Prien Lake Road in Lake Charles. DEQ inspections of the site showed there were seven drums that contained highly corrosive wastes and toxic metals, according to Peter Ricca, DEQ's environmental manager for criminal investigations.

An informant notified DEQ officials about the drums and waste. Inspectors from DEQ's Lake Charles regional office examined the site and turned the information over to the agency's Criminal Investigation Unit. CIU executed an arrest warrant on Wednesday.

"This is the second time Mr. Beam has been involved with a facility that did not manage nor dispose of its hazardous waste in accordance with state regulations and laws," Ricca said. "Illegal disposal of hazardous waste is a felony. Anyone who owns or operates a business that uses materials that could be hazardous to the environment needs to know the proper way to dispose of that material."

In November, Beam was arrested for illegal disposal of hazardous waste at a facility in Lake Charles where he was listed as director. That facility was Chrome Doctor Inc., located at 1001 Main Street. DEQ is overseeing cleanup at this site and has been invoiced in excess of \$90 thousand to date and additional work remains.

City and state inspectors are now working on plans to manage the waste at the Chrome Technology site.